	TV Centre	Distance from the city
37	VLPT, Seppa	within town
38	VLPT, Tawang	3 KMs.
39	VLPT, Ziro	within town
40.	VLPT, Nonngstoin	2 KMs
41	VLPT, Hayuliang	within town
42	VLPT, Senaputi	within town
43	VLPT, Tamenglnog	within town
44.	VPLT, Chandel	within town
45.	VPLT. Lunglei	4 KMs.
46	VLPT, Saiba	within town
47	VLPT, Mon	within town
48	VLPT, Wokha	within town
49	VLPT, Zunheboto	within town
50.	Transposer, Guwahati	7 KMs.
51.	Transposer Haflong	7 KMs.
52.	Transposer Kohima	within town
53.	Transposer Bellonia	7 KMs.

CAG Report and food irradiation project in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

1414 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the comments of CAGs report No 2 of 1990 for the year ending 31st March, 1989 on the BARCs wasteful Food Irradiation project; if so, what corrective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken;

(b) whether Government are aware that several States in U.S.A and Australia have recently banned food irradiation; and

(c) whether Government would set up a Review Team with NGOs representation to have a de novo look in view of world wide opposition to food irradiation and nuclear energy in view of the new data has emerged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA) (a) Yes, Sir. In its report CAG has not mentioned food irradiation as a wasteful project but only questioned the delay in its implementation

Government wish to clarify the observations reported by CAG.

(1) *Sub-optimal utilization of facilities in fiply.*

The Irradiation Facilities Installed in Food Irradiation and Processing Laboratory are not commercial units, but intended to conduct R&D work upto pilot scale to establish irradiation technology for preservation of perishable commodities in India. Food package irradiator and grain irradiator are essentially meant for R & D work and they have limited capabilities which are not

suitable for commercial operation requiring high through-puts These facilities were used throughout the studies. However, 100 per cent utilization as commercial units was never intended. Food package irradiator is being used currently for R & D work and also for large scale irradiation trials on onions spices, potatoes and wheat products.

(ii) *Commercial application of irradiation technology.*

The commercial application of irradiation technology developed at BARC for various products is entrusted with the Board of Radiation and Isotape Technology. They will be responsible for building commercial irradiators at different locations for irradiation of various food items such as spices, onions and potatoes.

(iii) *Marketing of irradiated foods*

The marketing of irradiated foods to Indian consumer or even the consumer acceptability trials can be done only after notification of the rules for control of Food Irradiation Process under Atomic Energy Act and Trade in irradiated food under prevention of Food Adulteration Act Ministry of Health is taking action on this matter. Commecialization of irradiation technology in India should wait till the publication of these rules by the Government.

(iv) *Manpower for irradiation research.*

Manpower actually employed for research on food irradiation has been reduced from 37 in 1973 to 18 in 1989 onwards

Currently only 37.5 per cent of the total scientific staff in the Food Technology and Enzyme Engineering Division is working on food irradiation.

(v) *Mobile onion irradiator.*

The delay in the completion of the mobile onion irradiator meant for demonstration of the technology to farmers and traders in onion at various locations, is due to the time taken for approval of the design from safety considerations and also the delay in the procurement of the materials and components for fabrication.

(b) US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved all foods irradiated upto 1 KGy and spices upto 30KGy for human consumption, through some State Governments in USA have taken action to prevent the sale of irradiated food within their territories Recently (in May, 1990), FDA allowed irradiation of poultry with a dose of 3 KGy which is applicable to all States Although individual States in USA have the freedom to enact legislation of their own which cannot be opposed by FDA, we are not aware of any State having so far enacted any legislation against irradiation of poultry.

Australia has not shown interest in food irradiation So, the question of banning food irradiation in that country does not arise It may be pointed out that irradiated food items are safe for human consumption The Joint FAO-IAEA-WHO expert committee after extensive evaluation have cleared a large number of irradiated food items for human consumption So far 36 countries have cleared irradiated foods and about 20 use this technology commercially Food items like potatoes, onions, wheat and wheat products, spices, chicken, fish, sausages mangoes, papayas, apples, and strawberries have been cleared by many countries

(c) An appex body namely National Monitoring Agency (NMA), has already been constituted by the Government of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give guidelines and to oversee all aspects regarding food irradiation technology Presently, NMA has cleared the application of this technology for the preservation of spices, onions and frozen sea foods In view of the existing National Monitoring Agency, there is no need to have another review committee.